

The Montreal Star says—Mr. Hector McInnes, K. C., is the new vice-president of the Cumberland Railway & Coal Co., and no better man could be found to tackle the almost helpless situation at Springhill.

Mr. McInnes is thoroughly posted on the situation there, having been the chief legal adviser of the company under the old management.

The Mining Record says: "With the exception of the leading coal operators, there is no one in the province who knows so many ins and outs of coal mining as Mr. McInnes."

Why should the Star use the words "almost helpless situation at Springhill?" Did not a portion of the press and all of the U. M. W. leaders in Springhill make affidavit that the cause of all the trouble was the presence of Mr. Cowans, and that the ready solution of the situation was his absence. Well, he has gone and the way is clear. The removal of Mr. Cowans will never relieve the situation. That can be done however in a very simple way. Let the unionists at Springhill renounce the U. M. W. or let the U. M. W. renounce their claim to recognition. They may as well do it first as last, for it is a solemn truth that the present controllers of the company have no intention of doing so. As the position of Pres. Vice-Pres. Secy-Treas. and controllers of the steel corporation are not sinecures the RECORD will not be a bit surprised if Mr. McInnes who is now overworked should resign as soon as Senator Forget, now ill in Europe, returns.

The British unionists are very much put out. They rave like lunatics and are as illogical and inconsistent as they make them. For instance Right Hon. Thos. Andrews, president of the Ulster Liberal Unionist Association, says:—

"Every man in the United Kingdom knows that Mr. Redmond can turn Mr. Asquith out of power any day he wishes. Mr. Redmond is Premier Asquith's master. Patrick Ford with his American dollars is Mr. Redmond's master. Thus the pitiful situation is reached of having Patrick Ford governing the British Empire. Ulster will never submit. I do not think an officer could be found in the British army to give the order to his men to fire on the loyalists of Ulster. That indeed would be a spectacle the like of which the world has never seen before."

If Mr. Redmond tried to upset the government on account of its refusal to grant all his demands, it is as plain as a pike staff he could only do so with the assistance of the unionists, and surely, surely, President Andrews and the unionists members would be the last to assist in such a diabolical scheme. The Fords and Redmonds can only do wrong with the assistance of the unionists, and these should not forget that important fact

Referring to the readjustment of the tariff the Toronto Globe says:

"Speaking for itself, the Globe hopes that readjustment will take the form of relieving Nova Scotia of the burdens said to be borne for the benefit of the Ontario and Quebec industries and agriculturists rather than by the increase of the tax on pig iron and steel. How to cheapen the cost of production and so increase the margin of profit in Nova Scotia's greatest industry is one of the most urgent problems of the day. Nova Scotia has ore, coal and labor of the highest efficiency. Why should she not produce pig iron as cheaply as Britain, Germany, or the United States? It is just possible that she does. In settling that point, the experts whom Sir

Wilfred proposes to appoint to unravel tariff puzzles should be able to supply much valuable information."

The government cannot do impossible things. It cannot assist to cheapen coal production unless it is able to make steep seams flatter, to evaporate the water of the mines, without pumping, to make mine roofs so that they will not require timbering, and to make air course through the mines without the aid of costly fans. These are some natural disadvantages Nova Scotia's mines labor under which even governments cannot remove.

Here is a piece that should be read by not a few people who do their best to make people miserable:

"The person who is miserable over the good time past has a sturdy competitor in the person who tries to impress on you 'what the world is coming to.' Only a hundred years ago some of these people were busy working out by arithmetic that people had only to go on having children at the rate they were having them for there not to be enough food for them to eat—they were outgrowing the increase in crops. Now France is deplored her declining population and Britain is concerned over her falling rate of increase. In the time of Queen Elizabeth it was proved quite satisfactorily by miserable scientists that the smoke of the great cities must in time choke their inhabitants. London citizens were horribly worried by the number of foreigners there, even in the days of King James. In a generation or two the foreigners must 'own' the place. Just think of that. What the world is coming to has been, and is, an inexhaustible mine of misery to people who set themselves to work it."

The RECORD was wrong in saying last issue that there would be fewer laborites in this British Parliament than the last. The RECORD should have said fewer candidates; with fewer candidates the laborites have more seats, but of course by the grace of the liberal party. There was a better understanding on the whole between the liberals and the laborites, though the obstinacy of the latter gave one or two seats to those not friendly to labor.

Stands Scotland where it did? You better believe it does. If it comes to a matter of proportion, Scotland is the little joker of the liberal party, always trump, and Wales is the right bower.

Remarkable evidence of the rapidity of which Germany is being transformed from an agricultural into an industrial country is furnished by the new census estimates. The figures show that the cities of the Empire are making great strides at the expense of the rural districts. In 1900 the Empire had thirty-three municipalities each with a population of 100,000 or more. There are now forty-seven such cities and the number of municipalities with a population of 50,000 or more, has grown from two to seven.

The combined growth in population of forty of the larger towns is alone about half the increase recorded for the entire Empire, which is expected to be about 4,500,000.

The rapid progress of the industrial centres has an important bearing on the internal situation, as the Government's political support has heretofore been largely drawn from the agrarian districts.